

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An upper center-weighted hook for partial embedment in a plastic fishing lure and retrieval through a waterbody, said hook comprising:
 - a hook shank for extending into the lure;
 - a bend provided in one end of said hook shank;
 - a hook tip terminating said bend;
 - a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said hook shank from said bend; and
 - a double-tapered weight ~~provided on said shank, said weight~~ comprising a lower weight taper tapered to said hook shank and a top weight taper tapered to said hook shank, which top weight taper is closer to spaced from said hook eye than to said hook tip. for causing said hook and the lure to sink in the waterbody.
2. (Original) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 1 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.
3. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 1 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said weight.
4. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 1 further comprising:
 - an offset bend provided in said shank between said weight and said hook eye.
5. (Withdrawn) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 4 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

6. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 4 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said weight.

7. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 4 further comprising:
a reverse bend provided in said bend and wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.

8. (Withdrawn) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 7 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

9. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 7 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said weight.

10. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 7 further comprising:
a barb provided in said reverse bend, said barb spaced from said hook tip.

11. (Withdrawn) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 10 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

12. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 10 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said weight.

13. (Original) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 1 further comprising:
a reverse bend provided in said bend, wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.

14. (Withdrawn) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 13 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

15. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 13 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said weight.

16. (Original) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 13 further comprising:
a barb provided in said reverse bend, said barb spaced from said hook tip.

17. (Withdrawn) The upper-center weighted hook of claim 16 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

18. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 16 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said weight.

19. (Currently Amended) An upper center-weighted hook for partial embedment in a plastic fishing lure, said hook comprising:

a straight hook shank segment;

a bend provided in one end of said straight hook shank segment;

a reverse bend terminating said bend;

a hook tip terminating said reverse bend;

a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said straight hook shank segment from said bend; and

a double-tapered weight ~~provided on said straight shank segment, said weight comprising a lower weight taper tapered to said straight hook shank segment and a top weight taper tapered to said straight hook shank segment, which top weight taper is closer to~~ provided on said straight shank segment, said weight comprising a lower weight taper tapered to said straight hook shank segment and a top weight taper tapered to said straight hook shank segment, which top weight taper is closer to ~~spaced from said hook eye than to said hook tip. for causing said hook and the lure to sink in the waterbody.~~

20. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 19 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said weight and said hook eye.

21. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 19 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend, said barb spaced from said hook tip.

22. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 19 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said weight and said hook eye; and
a barb provided in said reverse bend, said barb spaced from said hook tip.

23. (Currently Amended) An upper center-weighted hook for partial embedment in a plastic fishing lure, said hook comprising:

a curved hook shank segment for extending into the lure;
a bend provided in one end of said curved hook shank segment;
a reverse bend terminating said bend;
a hook tip terminating said reverse bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said curved hook shank segment from said bend; and

~~a double-tapered weight provided on said curved shank segment, said weight comprising a lower weight taper tapered to said curved hook shank segment and a top weight taper tapered to said curved hook shank segment, which top weight taper is closer to spaced from said hook eye than to said hook tip. for causing said hook and the lure to sink in the waterbody.~~

24. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 23 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said weight and said hook eye.

25. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 23 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend, said barb spaced from said hook tip.

26. (Original) The upper center-weighted hook of claim 23 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said weight and said hook eye; and
a barb provided in said reverse bend, said barb spaced from said hook tip.

27. (Currently Amended) A fish hook comprising:
a hook shank;
a bend provided in one end of said hook shank;
a hook tip terminating said bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said hook shank from said bend; and
a weight provided on said shank between said bend and said hook eye, and having a top weight taper tapered to said shank and a lower weight taper tapered to said shank, which top weight taper is closer to said hook eye than to said hook tip.
28. (Original) The fish hook of claim 27 wherein said top weight taper terminates below said hook eye.
29. (Original) The fish hook of claim 27 further comprising an offset bend positioned between said top weight taper and said hook eye, wherein said top weight taper terminates below said offset bend.
30. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 27 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.
31. (Original) The fish hook of claim 27 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said lower weight taper.
32. (Original) The fish hook of claim 31 where said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.
33. (Original) The fish hook of claim 27 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said hook shank between said top weight taper and said hook eye.

34. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 33 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.

35. (Original) The fish hook of claim 33 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.

36. (Original) The fish hook of claim 33 wherein said bend further comprises: a reverse bend, and wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.

37. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 36 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

38. (Original) The fish hook of claim 36 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.

39. (Original) The fish hook of claim 36 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.

40. (Original) The fish hook of claim 39 wherein said barb is spaced from said hook tip.

41. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 39 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said top weight taper.

42. (Original) The fish hook of claim 39 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.

43. (Original) The fish hook of claim 27 wherein said bend further comprises: a reverse bend, and wherein said hook tip terminates said reverse bend.

44. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 43 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

45. (Original) The fish hook of claim 43 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said lower weight taper.

46. (Original) The fish hook of claim 43 where said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.

47. (Original) The fish hook of claim 43 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.

48. (Original) The fish hook of claim 47 wherein said barb is spaced from said hook tip.

49. (Withdrawn) The fish hook of claim 47 wherein said hook shank is substantially straight from above said bend to at least immediately above said weight.

50. (Original) The fish hook of claim 47 wherein said hook shank is curved from said bend at least to said top weight taper.

51. (Currently Amended) A fish hook comprising:
a straight hook shank segment;
a bend provided in one end of said straight hook shank segment;
a reverse bend terminating said bend;
a hook tip terminating said reverse bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said straight hook shank segment from said bend; and
a weight provided on said straight shank segment between said bend and said hook eye, said weight having a top weight taper tapered to said straight hook shank segment and a lower

weight taper tapered to said straight hook shank segment, which top weight taper is closer to said hook eye than to said hook tip.

52. (Original) The fish hook of claim 51 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye.

53. (Original) The fish hook of claim 51 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.

54. (Original) The fish hook of claim 51 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye; and
a barb provided in said reverse bend.

55. (Currently Amended) A fish hook comprising:
a curved hook shank segment;
a bend provided in one end of said curved hook shank segment;
a reverse bend terminating said bend;
a hook tip terminating said reverse bend;
a hook eye provided on an opposite end of said curved hook shank segment from said bend; and
a weight provided on said curved shank segment between said bend and said hook eye, said weight having a top weight taper tapered to said curved hook shank segment and a lower weight taper tapered to said curved hook shank segment, which top weight taper is closer to said hook eye than to said hook tip.

56. (Original) The fish hook of claim 55 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye.

57. (Original) The fish hook of claim 55 further comprising a barb provided in said reverse bend.

58. (Original) The fish hook of claim 55 further comprising:
an offset bend provided in said straight shank segment between said top weight taper and said hook eye; and
a barb provided in said reverse bend.